



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
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Jill R. Myers
Town Manager

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Manager

DATE: May 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report for the BOS Meeting of May 12, 2008

Please see the attached Department Head monthly reports for the month of April, 2008.

Carrington Landing: Planning and Development Director DiPrete reported that the project was approved on 4/9, and no appeal was filed. This essentially concludes the litigation settlement of actions filed in 2005.

Cable Show – 21 S. Main Street: I completed taping segments with Department Heads reviewing the warrant articles and review the FY09 budget. The show is broadcasted on Channel 12.

Health Benefits – Open Enrollment for FY09:

Our open enrollment period began on May 1st and extends through the month of May. Our first health fair was held on May 7th and was well attended. A second health fair is scheduled for May 14 from 2-6pm in Lower Town Hall. We also met with the Teachers at the High School Auditorium on May 8 for a general question and answer session. We would like to remind all employees and retirees on active plans, that new paperwork must be completed and submitted by June 1st to Kelly Poulin, Payroll Coordinator in the Treasurer's Office. She is available to answer any questions, and assist employees - (payroll.coordinator@uxbridge-ma.gov).

FY09 Budget:

I am very pleased to report that the parties have agreement on a FY2009 budget recommendation to present to the Spring Annual Town Meeting of May 13. FinComm has voted favorably on the Town Manager's FY09 Budget recommendation of 4/24/08 on 5/1/08. The updated message and summary statement is posted on the Town's website. At its meeting of 5/6, the School Committee voted to amend its budget request of \$18,544,516 to the Town Manager's recommended \$17,712,677. Additionally, the Library budget amount was increased since the 2/29/09 budget message to provide for certification in the regional system and receive state grants. Still, the updated Town Manager's budget recommendation does not fund the operating budget with one-time revenues or use of stabilization. It was a very difficult task resulting in a reduction of services for a few years until the structural deficit is addressed, but in an effort to bring the Town into financial health and maintain our bond rating. We are working to finalize a

revenue sharing agreement between me and the School Committee, which has been modeled and discussed at the Finance Committee meetings of recent. I hope to receive endorsement of the Agreement by the BOS as well and Finance Committee. The materials will be uploaded to the Town's website, and distributed to the various Town buildings for viewing. FY10 will be even more difficult than FY09.

Spring Annual Town Meeting – 5/13/08:

A meeting with the Moderator and Chairmen of the BOS, School Committee, Finance Committee and me was held on 5/7 to review the warrant, and conduct of Town Meeting. Items to note from the meeting include:

- All motions on the articles need to be submitted in writing (Uxbridge Bylaws, Chapter 125, Section 11): one for the Moderator and one for the Town clerk.
- The recommendations and votes of the Board of Selectmen will be added to the text in the Warrant, along with those of the Finance Committee.
- Article 1 will be a report from the Capital Committee discussing our capital needs and keeping this item on our priority list for potentially the Fall Town Meeting.
- Article 2 ALS equipment – we have a very good chance of receiving a State earmark in the FY09 State Budget. As such, we will seek approval of the appropriation, and any funds received will be used instead of Enterprise fund retained earnings.
- Article 3 FY08 Inter/Intra Departmental Transfers - This article requires two different standards for votes: simple majority and 2/3rds (w/ Stabilization). A new transfer request was added on 5/7 under Article 3, providing for 13 for an insurance expenditure by the School department in response to the Bernat Mill fire. That was not included in the FinComm's recommendation nor has the BOS voted on it. It will be voted at the meetings prior to the SATM at 6:30pm, or possibly for the BOS at the meeting of 5/12.
- Article 5 Town Budget. The vote on the budget will be made by the spending categories (General Government, etc.), with the line items for the schools, school transportation and BVT voted on separately.
- Article 32: Underride Ballot Question. In light of its importance to the budget, this item may be taken out of order to vote immediately after Article 5. The petitioned underride Article won't be binding upon the Town until: 1) approved by a majority of Town Meeting, 2) approved by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen (per specific language of Article 32), and 3) approved by majority of voters at a special election. The Town may have to revisit its annual budget and call a special Town Meeting to make appropriate transfers/ reductions IF the underride is effected (not merely the Town Meeting vote on Article 32). This would have to be accomplished prior to setting our tax rate next November/ December.
- Article 25: This is an Article sponsored by FinComm seeking Town Meeting authorization of a proposed Charter amendment pursuant to G.L. c.43B, §10(a). It will require a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting to pass. If approved by the Town meeting, a copy of the proposed amendment order must "immediately" be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General and to the Department of Community Affairs. The order proposing the amendment doesn't take effect for four weeks after the date of submission, assuming that the AG opines, in writing, that the proposed amendment doesn't conflict with the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth. The proposed charter amendment must then be submitted to the voters of the Town at the first annual or biennial election held at least two months after the order proposing the amendment becomes effective, in accordance

with G.L. c.43B, § 11. This schedule would not allow sufficient time for the question to appear on the ballot in July, as we were hoping, but it would be placed on the next scheduled election ballot. If the proposed charter amendment is approved by a majority of the voters, it will become effective upon final posting of the vote (unless the Town Meeting vote specifies otherwise; the petitioned Article is silent as to the effective date of the proposed amendment).

Other:

- Crown and Eagle Citizens Petition for Repair to the Sidewalk: We received a petitioned by many of the residents. Town Counsel is working on this issue, having visited the site on 4/28, and reviewing the files. He requested to meet with the BOS on 6/9 to discuss this matter when he is here next - not determined yet if it will be in open session or executive session.
- FY07 Town Report: We received the Town Report to distribute at the SATM on 5/13. We also have it as a PDF link on the website – www.uxbridge-ma.gov.
- Union Negotiations: The Teachers' (UTA) Negotiations were held on 5/1 and 5/8. No settlement on the contract expiring June 30, 2008 has been reached. Negotiations with the Fire Union are completed. We also held a session with the Police Union, and SEIU negotiations have not yet commenced.
- Municipal Licensing Meeting: Assistant to the Town Manager attended the annual meeting and brought back materials.
- May 15 National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The flag will be at half staff per Federal Law.

Attachment